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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Miera ORIGINAL DATE 2-20-2007
LAST UPDATED _____ HB HJM 31
SHORT TITLE Legislation Racial Impact Assessments SB _____
ANALYST White

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	Non- Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 31 requests the New Mexico Legislative Council, through the appropriate committee of the legislature to study the feasibility of requiring a racial impact assessment of certain health and mental health legislation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Joint Memorial 31 has immediate fiscal implications involving the costs associated with putting together a feasibility study. If this memorial passes than these costs would be incurred by the Legislative Council Service and the appropriate committee of the legislature in fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

Furthermore, if this study leads to the adoption of racial impact assessments, then additional substantial costs would be incurred in order to actually construct these racial impact assessments for the legislature. These costs are indeterminate at this time, however would be incurred beginning in fiscal year 2009 and continuing on indefinitely.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Statistics tell us that growing amounts of minority youth are without health insurance. Because of the fact that New Mexico is a multi-cultural state racial impact assessments would attempt to determine the potential for disparate outcomes for minorities caused by certain legislation.

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Despite the fact that only thirty-three percent of New Mexico children are white non-Hispanic, an alarming fifteen percent are without health insurance. This number of uninsured is only two percent lower than those of Hispanic children while Hispanic children make up eighteen percent more of the state's under eighteen population. Therefore if the intention of these assessments is to recognize "potential disparate outcomes" it would be more feasible to consider the impact on all New Mexicans currently below the federal poverty line regardless of race.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Additional administrative staff may need to be hired in order to conduct the feasibility survey. If the policy is adopted additional staff will also be needed to compose the racial impact assessments.

DAW/mt